



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

Testimony of Governor Neil Abercrombie  
In **Support of**  
**H.B. 853**, Proposing An Amendment to Article X, Section 1,  
Of The Hawaii State Constitution To Permit The Appropriation Of Public Funds For Private Early  
Childhood Education Programs  
**H.B. 862**, Relating to School Readiness  
**H.B. 864**, Relating to Early Childhood Education

House Committee on Education  
February 1, 2013  
2:00 p.m., Room 309

Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Ohno, and members of the Education Committee:

Good afternoon. I am here today to speak in **strong support of House Bills 853, 862, and 864.**

In my State of the State address, I emphasized that the greatest unfunded liability we have is the failure to address early childhood development and education in Hawaii. Today we are placing an unfair burden on our students, parents, and teachers in expecting them to make up for our failure to support children in their most formative years. In Hawaii, an alarming number of our children are entering school without the basics needed to succeed in school. In three-quarters of DOE kindergarten classes in 2012-2013, the majority of students did not start school with basic skills in reading and mathematics nor the social-emotional behaviors necessary for success in school. Statewide, about 43% of students who entered kindergarten had not attended preschool.

High-quality early learning has a larger, long-term impact on our state. Local studies indicate that every \$1 invested in early learning generates \$4.20 in future savings and increased earnings for Hawaii. Societies that invest in early learning programs boast higher levels of educational attainment; reduced homelessness, crime, and substance abuse; improved health; and better overall social and economic well-being.

**H.B. 862**

Therefore, I am proposing the School Readiness Program as the first phase of this high-quality early learning program. The School Readiness Program will help children develop the skills and attitudes they need to be ready for kindergarten. The School Readiness Program will be delivered through contracts with DOE and DHS-licensed child care providers that meet quality standards. We are not talking about babysitting; we are talking about programs that prepare children for school.

The Program must be in place to provide services to the gap group that will result from the 2014 change in kindergarten entry age (children must be five years old by July 31 of the school year to enroll in DOE kindergarten) mandated by Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012. DOE estimates

there are 5,100 children in the gap group – those born between Aug. 1 and Dec. 31, 2009. It is critical that we act now to make sure these children do not fall off the cliff – we must have the School Readiness Program ready for them.

#### **H.B. 864**

The School Readiness Program will lay the foundation for a program that will have greater educational impact – what is needed to truly make a difference in our children's outcomes. The Early Childhood Education Program encapsulates the large, full-scale educational program for all children in the year before kindergarten, as described in H.B. 864.

The Early Childhood Education Program will produce positive educational and developmental outcomes for children to help them be ready for kindergarten and succeed in school. This will be a high-quality program with curriculum goals that are met through developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate teaching practices in the context of positive teacher-child-family relationships. The program will be delivered through contracts with DOE and private early childhood education programs that meet educational outcomes through the quality standards established by EOEL.

#### **H.B. 853**

Because we envision the delivery of Program services through partnerships with the private programs, which have been the mainstay providers for our families and indicate available capacity, and because of explicit educational goals and standards, I have proposed an amendment to Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, under the advice of the Attorney General, to allow EOEL to contract with private early childhood education programs. If approved by the Legislature, the Constitutional amendment would appear on the 2014 election ballot to be ratified by voters.

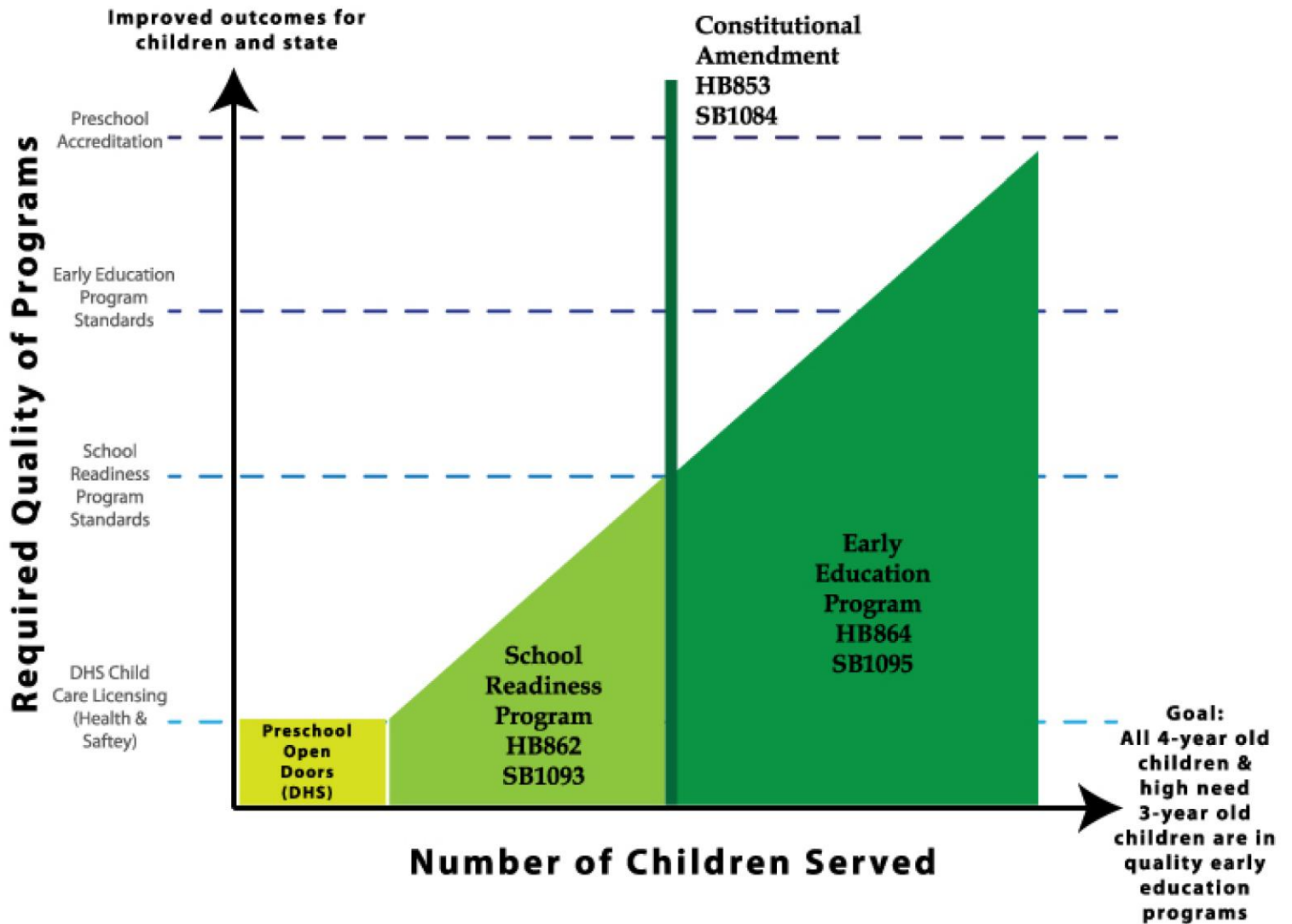
Only when voters ratify the Constitutional amendment will we be able to implement the high-quality early childhood education program described in H.B. 864. The Constitutional amendment and H.B. 864 will help the State meet its goal of providing a high-quality early learning system for Hawaii's children and help our children demonstrate sustained success in school and beyond.

H.B. 862 immediately allows more children to be ready to learn on day one of kindergarten. H.B. 864 expands on this investment with higher standards and by serving more children. H.B. 853 is necessary to implement the early childhood education program that will help us achieve the outcomes we want for our children.

Attached are further details about the Programs and a table that explains how all three bills would work together to improve outcomes for children and the state.

By investing in our children, we are investing in our future as well as theirs. Our approach is ambitious but pragmatic.

This is my highest priority. I urge you to support these bills. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My staff and Terry Lock, director of the Executive Office on Early Learning, are here to answer any questions you may have.



Differences Between the School Readiness Program and Early Childhood Education Program

- The School Readiness Program (H.B. 862):
  - Will help a child prepare to learn by focusing more on socialization skills.
  - Services can only be delivered through DHS-licensed child care providers and DOE.
  - What we can implement *now* without a Constitutional amendment. Immediately allows more children to be ready to learn on day one of kindergarten. Provides services to the gap group resulting from the 2014 change in kindergarten entry age.
  - Establishes the foundation/infrastructure for the Early Childhood Education Program.
- The Early Childhood Education Program (H.B. 864):
  - The large, full-scale program that will help a child with social-emotional development but also intellectual development. Incorporates higher standards for curriculum, assessment, and teacher quality. Tied to educational outcomes.
  - Only under this program will we be able to hold participating providers accountable for educational outcomes, which is what is needed to help us achieve the outcomes we want for children.
  - Because the focus is on education, the risk of it being challenged under the Constitution is high – there has been litigation in the past.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/01/2013

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 0862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes the School Readiness Program within the early learning system.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 0862. The Department recognizes the importance of establishing a quality early learning system to support all children toward a college- and career-ready future in Hawaii.

Hawaii's School Readiness Program will offer children statewide access to quality early learning opportunities. The Department is poised to work with the Executive Office on Early Learning in their efforts to promote school readiness initiatives to prepare Hawaii's young children physically, cognitively, linguistically, socially, and emotionally the year before they enter public school kindergarten.

The Department also supports effective school readiness activities for incoming kindergarten students that do not adversely impact the fiscal priorities set forth in the Department's budget.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 1, 2013

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
House Committee on Education

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 862 - RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS**

Hearing: Friday, February 1, 2013; 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of H.B. 862 is to establish a statewide school readiness program consisting of providers of school readiness services to assist families in preparing their children for success in school. The statewide school readiness program will be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning and is a major component of the early learning system established pursuant to section 302L-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Excepts the Executive Office on Early Learning and its programs from the purview of the Board of Education and Department of Education.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this Administration bill. Many of the families of late-born children affected by the change in kindergarten entry age in the 2014-2015 school year will be forced to find child care arrangements for an additional year. Without the implementation of the School Readiness Program, these displaced children may not attend preschool in this

extra year prior to kindergarten entry. Many working families are not able to afford the cost of preschool for an additional year as they struggle to make ends meet in Hawaii, one of the highest cost of living states in the nation.

The proposed School Readiness Program would provide services on a sliding fee scale to all eligible children and establish program requirements to ensure participating programs' curricula will be aligned with the Department of Education's Common Core Standards. The program standards the School Readiness Program will develop high minimum licensing standards, including higher staff qualifications and lower staff to child ratios, and provide families and children access to quality programs. The School Readiness Program would also provide participating preschool programs with opportunities for support and resources to continuously improve their program standards and opportunities for staff professional development.

The Executive Office on Early Learning plans to work with public and private partners in building capacity within the State's existing preschool programs. There are also plans being considered for the future to increase the number of preschool seats available through the expansion of the Pre-Plus program with more programs on Department of Education campuses.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

House Committee on Education

H.B. 0862, Relating to School Readiness

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
Director of Health

February 1, 2013

**Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Biennium Budget.

**Fiscal Implications:** None to the Department of Health.

**Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this measure is to develop a statewide school readiness program that will be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning to assist families in preparing their children for success in school. The Department of Health (DOH) believes that the foundation for school readiness is in the health and development of children including the core capabilities such as motor, cognitive, and social skills. DOH believes that early childhood development begins prenatally with the care of the mother and the responsive families and communities in which children grow and develop and that children need the continuum of support to achieve their optimal development

The DOH supports the Executive Office on Early Learning's School Readiness Program as it will help efforts to improve the comprehensive early childhood system in Hawaii. We look forward to working with the Executive Office on Early Learning to ensure that this is a program that supports children and families throughout the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



## **TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2013**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

**H.B. NO. 862, RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS.**

**BEFORE THE:**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**DATE:** Friday, February 1, 2013

**TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 309

**TESTIFIER(S):** David M. Louie, Attorney General, or  
Russell A. Suzuki, First Deputy Attorney General, or  
Gary S. Sukanuma, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General supports this bill.

This bill seeks to establish a statewide school readiness program to assist families in preparing their children for success in school. The school readiness program, which would address children's physical, cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional development, is just the first step towards the Governor's broader goal of a statewide early childhood education program for all children in the State. This investment will not only help our children to realize their full potential, but will also benefit the communities in which they live.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

ALII PLACE  
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 547-7400 • FAX: (808) 547-7515

KEITH M. KANESHIRO  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

ARMINA A. CHING  
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



**THE HONORABLE ROY TAKUMI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2013  
State of Hawai'i**

February 1, 2013

**RE: H.B. 853; PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X, SECTION 1, OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION TO PERMIT THE APPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PRIVATE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**

**RE: H.B. 862; RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS.**

**RE: H.B. 864; RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.**

Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Ohno and members of the House Committee on Education, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in support of H.B. 853, H.B. 862, and H.B. 864.

H.B. 853, H.B. 862, and H.B. 864 establish public early childhood education programs and supports private early childhood education programs as well.

While the Department's primary role is to prosecute juvenile and criminal cases within the justice system, our overarching focus is on public safety for the community, and that starts with prevention and education. As such, the Department strongly supports the development and implementation of early childhood education programs in Hawaii.

According to the HighScope Perry Preschool study that was conducted over 4 decades by the late David P. Weikart, founder of the HighScope Educational Research Foundation; Larry Schweinhart, HighScope's current president; and their colleagues, the effects of high-quality early care and education on low-income three- and four-year-olds shows that adults at age 40 who participated in a preschool program in their early years have higher earnings, are more likely to hold a job, have committed fewer crimes, and are more likely to have graduated from high school. Overall, the study documented a return to society of more than \$16 for every tax dollar invested in the early care and education program.

One of the reviewers of the study, Nobel-Prize-winning University of Chicago economist James J. Heckman, said, "This report substantially bolsters the case for early interventions in disadvantaged populations. More than 35 years after they received an enriched preschool program, the Perry Preschool participants achieve much greater success in social and economic life than their counterparts who are randomly denied treatment."

Among the study's major findings in the crime prevention area are:

- The group who received high-quality early education had significantly fewer arrests than the non-program group (36% vs. 55% arrested five times or more); and
- Significantly fewer members of the group who received high-quality early care than the non-program group were ever arrested for violent crimes (32% vs. 48%), property crimes (36% vs. 58%), or drug crimes (14% vs. 34%).

For the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu strongly supports H.B. 853, H.B. 862, and H.B. 864. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



# **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

## **Legislative Testimony**

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Testimony presented before the  
House Committee on Education  
February 1, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

By Linda K. Johnsrud

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost, University of Hawai'i System

### **HB 862: RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS**

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Members of the House Committee on Education:

The University of Hawai'i strongly supports HB 862 that establishes a statewide school readiness program consisting of eligible providers of school readiness services and administered by the Executive Office of Early Learning. The goal is to assist families in preparing their children to succeed in school by providing access to services, prioritizing four-year-old children not eligible to attend public kindergarten and underserved or at-risk children.

Numerous studies have shown the link between children's readiness to enter school and subsequent school success. Programs that develop a child's cognitive, emotional, linguistic, social and physical readiness develop capacity for doing well in kindergarten and beyond. Furthermore, there is evidence that quality early childhood care that promotes readiness for school has longer-term effects on later achievement and adult outcomes. This has enormous social and economic implications for our community and the quality of life in Hawai'i.

The University of Hawai'i is an active member of the Early Learning Advisory Board, and before that, the Early Learning Council. We recognize that it is critical that the earliest foundations for citizenship, career and college readiness are first established in our youngest children through programs that support their initial readiness for school. We therefore urge your support for HB 862.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Testimony Presented to the  
House Committee on Education

Friday, February 1, 2013 at 2:00 pm

by  
Chaminade University of Honolulu President  
Bro. Bernard J. Ploeger, SM, Ph.D.

**HB 862**  
**Relating to School Readiness**

Chairperson Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and members of the Committee on Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of **HB 862** establishing a School Readiness Program in the early learning system.

Chaminade University of Honolulu supports the legislation to establish within the early learning system a school readiness program to be administered by the executive office on early learning. Hawaii is one of only 11 states without a state-funded preschool program. Affordable access to high quality early learning programs must be available to all children regardless of their economic status or geographic location. The most vulnerable of Hawaii's children should not be penalized because of lack of opportunity to a quality preschool program.

Thank you for allowing us to submit this testimony.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Bro. Bernard J. Ploeger, SM".



Testimony Presented to the  
House Committee on Education

Friday, February 1, 2013 at 2:00 pm

by  
Chaminade University of Honolulu Education Dean  
Dr. Joe Peters

**HB 862**  
**Relating to School Readiness**

Chairperson Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the House Committee on Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 862** establishing a School Readiness Program in the early learning system.

The Education Division at Chaminade University of Honolulu is in full support of HB 862 establishing a School Readiness Program in the early learning system. The 5,100 children who will be left unserved due to the change in kindergarten entry age need our support to help guarantee their future success.

As a member of the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee, we also support the following joint position statement.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph Peters". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**TEACHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TECC)**  
**POSITION STATEMENT ON**  
**COMMITTING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

It is time for the State of Hawai'i to commit funding for early childhood education. Hawai'i is one of only 11 states without state-funded preschool. Yet the research is clear that laying a strong foundation for our youth through high quality preschool programs will result in productive and

capable citizens. A recent study in Hawai‘i found that every \$1 invested in early education returns \$4.20 in future social program savings. We have spent years studying the issues. We know what the right thing to do is. Now is the time to do it.

The newly established Executive Office of Early Learning in the Governor’s Office is recommending a course for early learning that is revolutionary. The proposed Early Learning Program has a developmentally appropriate focus on the whole child, bringing education, social services, and health together to increase child success.

Unlike older children or adults, young children need comprehensive, multi-dimensional services that exist on a continuum—from birth to at least 8 years of age—so that they can accomplish the tasks of development and learning important in the early years and are fully prepared for further learning in elementary, middle and high schools, postsecondary education and beyond.

The TECC supports the overarching principles of the proposed program. Affordable access to high quality early learning programs must be available to all children, regardless of socio-economic status, race or geographic location. Families must be engaged in the learning of their keiki and participate in the financing of the program; the plan must embrace public and private providers.

Research has shown that young children achieve better learning outcomes when they have teachers and caregivers with specialized preparation and on-going professional development in early childhood education. The TECC is committed to supporting the preparation, professional development, credentialing and licensing of early childhood professionals in a state-supported preschool system. We firmly believe that standards for professionals should remain high and that every child deserves a high-quality early learning setting. TECC members have programs in place and the capacity to address emerging State needs as the Legislature and institutions commit to universal early childhood education. Moreover, we support the Program’s plan to provide joint professional development and assistance to early childhood providers and educators in this public-private partnership.

We all need to pull together and support early education for all of Hawai‘i’s keiki. We ask that this year’s legislature support early childhood education by funding preschool for all four-year-olds beginning in 2014.

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## About the TECC

The Teacher Education Coordinating Committee (TECC) is a statewide advisory committee created in HRS 304A-1202. Its membership consists of representatives of every institution of higher education that prepares teachers for the State’s schools, the Hawai‘i Department of Education, and the Hawai‘i Teacher Standards Board. In its monthly meeting, the TECC identifies, studies, acts, and makes recommendations on matters of education of common interest to the Hawai‘i State Department of Education.



## HAWAII STATE PTSA

*every child. one voice.*

765 Amana Street • Suite 308 • Honolulu • HI • 96814

TEL: (808) 943-2042 • FAX: (808) 945-2042 • EMAIL: [histateptsa@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:histateptsa@hawaii.rr.com)

January 30, 2013

Senator Tokuda and Senator Oakland  
Chair of the Education and Human Services – State Capitol

RE: HB862 – RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS  
Establishes the School Readiness Program within the early learning system.

Dear Chairs Tokuda and Oakland, Vice-Chair Kidani and Green, and Members of the Committee,

The PTSA **supports** HB862 that establishes a statewide school readiness program.

The PTSA maintains that *all* children benefit from early intervention and this is especially true in the case with children who have special needs. Research has repeatedly shown that early intervention rates of children who are able to mainstream into Kindergarten are much higher of those who receive early intervention than those who did not receive services. The Academy of Pediatric recommends diagnostic tools that can be used to diagnose children early to receive early intervention.

The PTSA supports preparing all children for success in school through the establishment of a statewide readiness program which consist of providers assisting families. In Connecticut, the Danbury School District tracked 391 children using the Preschool Assessment Framework (PAF). By the final PAF assessment more than 80% of all the children were at or above goal and ready for Kindergarten. (<http://www.danburypromiseforchildren.org/DSRDataAnalysisReport.pdf>)

Children who enter Kindergarten currently have a range of abilities, which impacts the teacher's ability to educate and the other children's ability to learn as well. This program will assist those students who are not developmentally ready for Kindergarten, to teach and prime them. It should be available to all children ages 3 and 4, especially those at high risk regardless of their economic conditions.

The Hawaii Congress of Parents, Teachers, and Students, also known as the Hawaii State PTSA, is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization made up of more than 7,000 dedicated to improving the lives of Hawaii's keiki. Chartered in 1926, the Hawaii State PTSA is Hawaii's oldest and largest child advocacy organization. We are a state charter of the [National PTA](#), made up of local units throughout the State of Hawaii.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact our office. We look forward to your continued support during this legislative session.

Thank you for considering our testimony,

Liz Sager  
President  
(Original signatures are on file)

Jessica Wong-Sumida  
VP-Legislation

Testimony on HB862 and HB864

Friday, February 1, 2013

2:00 pm, State Capitol Room 309

By LYNN HAMMONDS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD

January 31, 2012

Dear Chair Takumi:

I am writing in support of HB862 Relating to School Readiness and HB864 Relating to Early Childhood Education. A multitude of research, a lifetime of teaching experiences centered in preschool and lower elementary grades has proven to me that an investment in early learning reaps countless rewards for children, families and communities. I applaud the efforts of the Governor, the Legislature and the Executive Office on Early Learning for recognizing the importance of early learning and developing programs for young children.

Support for school readiness and an early learning system is the best investment in our future and in education that we can make and lays a strong foundation for learning in the grades that follow. When children come to school cognitively, linguistically, socially and emotionally ready to learn the elementary grades can build on these experiences. Children without access to school readiness or early learning programs often start their academic careers already behind their peers who participated in such programs. In addition, the opportunity for earlier intervention for “at risk” children may avert future learning difficulties. I strongly support both the School Readiness Program and the Early Childhood Education Program within the early learning system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director  
Good Beginnings Alliance

RE: Testimony in **support of HB 862**: Relating to School Readiness.

The Good Beginnings Alliance is in **support of HB 862**, Relating to School Readiness. The Good Beginnings Alliance (GBA) is a policy and advocacy organization focused on ensuring that Hawaii's young children are healthy, safe, and ready for school. We strive to support our stakeholder community to this end, as well as provide relevant information to our families and fellow advocate community. The GBA has over a decade of experience in advocacy and service to our youngest and their families.

Last year the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed into law, legislation creating the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL)(Act 178; 2012). This measure also called for the termination of the existing Junior Kindergarten program starting in the 2014-2015 school year; a pre-Kindergarten program for late-born children administered by the Department of Education. The elimination of this program could affect over 5,200 four-year-olds statewide. HB 862 provides a framework for the high quality school readiness program that will begin to take the place of Junior Kindergarten, and will eventually expand to provide statewide assistance to all families w/ four-year-olds who choose to send their children to a school readiness program.

HB 862 seeks to establish a high quality school readiness in several ways that we see as critical, including:

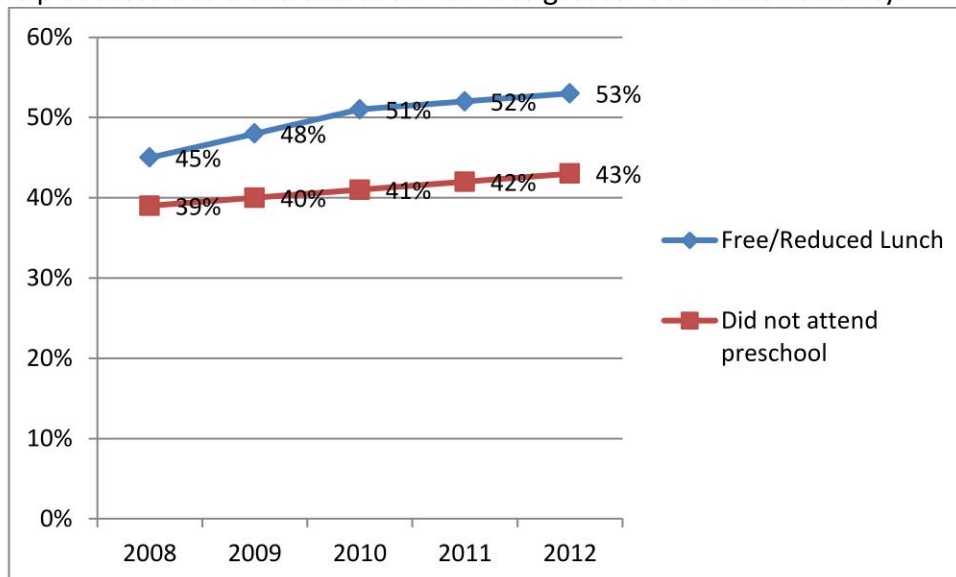
- Ensuring parent choice in selecting a school readiness program that best serves the child.
- Investing in our existing, and future, early learning/school readiness providers.
- Prioritizing both underserved and at-risk children.
- Providing assistance for middle-income, 'gap group', families of four-year-olds.
- Tasking the EOEL with developing and adopting standards for participating programs that will ensure qualified instruction and data collection.

This measure begins to lay the framework for the EOEL to move forward with their goal to prepare our youngest keiki to succeed when they enter Kindergarten. We know firsthand that the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional growth that comes with high quality school readiness programing serves to prepare children for school.

By providing the EOEL authority to execute the School Readiness Program, we hope that they will take great effort to ensure that a range of providers are allowed to participate in the program, including center-based, school-based, family-child interaction learning programs, and family child care homes. By ensuring this breadth of service we can guarantee service to a greater number of families across our state. Including different types of providers can also address the need to increase the capacity that can be expected with the implementation of the new school readiness program.

Hawaii remains one of only eleven states that provides no significant state funding for early childhood education. This coupled with nearly 43% of our students not having received preschool upon entering Kindergarten means that our Department of Education (DOE) system must devote time and resources to bringing these children up to speed with their counterparts who have had some form of school readiness programing. By investing in our four-year-olds early we help save our DOE system, and teachers, time and money.

It should also be noted that over the past four years our state has seen a decrease in the number of children entering Kindergarten having had preschool, and at the same time we see an increase in the number of students receiving free/reduced lunch. Providing the extra support to families in order to send their four-year-olds to a school readiness program will hopefully help address this trend and allow families greater economic flexibility.



1. 43% of students did not attend preschool prior to entering the HDOE system in the 2012-2013 school year. This percentage has steadily declined annually by 1% from 2008 to 2012 (HSSRA 2012-2013).
2. 53% of students received Free/Reduced Lunch (FRL) in the 2012-2013 school year. This is an increase of 1% when comparing to the previous school year.

We also see the critical mass of public and private support focused on this program like never before. Members of the business, philanthropic, labor, and education community have demonstrated a commitment to working together to build an early learning system that will place our keiki at the same level (or above) as their colleagues on the mainland.

GBA supports HB 862 as a first step toward bringing about the ultimate goal of a high quality school readiness program that will serve all of Hawaii's four-year-old children.

Thank you,  
Deborah Zysman  
Executive Director  
Good Beginnings Alliance

Written Testimony  
presented before the  
House Committee on Education  
February 1, 2012, 2:00 p.m., Conf. Room 309

by  
Donald B. Young

RE: HB 853 Proposed Amendment to Article X, Section 1 of the Hawai‘i Constitution  
HB 862 Relating to School Readiness  
HB 864 Relating to Early Childhood Education

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committee on Education;

My name is Donald Young. I am currently Dean of the College of Education at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and chair your Teacher Education Coordinating Committee (TECC). On behalf of the TECC, I am submitting testimony in general support of HB 853, HB 862, and HB 864. Collectively, these bills address critical needs in early learning in the State.

The TECC members, representing the following education organizations, unanimously support the position statement below. TECC members include the

- Hawai‘i State Department of Education
- University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa College of Education
- University of Hawai‘i West Oahu Division of Education
- University of Hawai‘i Hilo Department of Education
- University of Hawai‘i Hilo Kahuawaiola Indigenous Teacher Education
- University of Hawai‘i Honolulu Community College Early Childhood Education
- University of Hawai‘i Leeward Community College AAT Program
- Brigham Young University School of Education
- Chaminade University Education Division
- Hawai‘i Pacific University School of Education
- Hawai‘i Teacher Standards Board
- Teach for America
- University of Phoenix College of Education
- Hawai‘i P-20 Partnerships for Education

**TEACHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TECC)  
POSITION STATEMENT ON  
COMMITTING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

It is time for the State of Hawai‘i to commit funding for early childhood education. Hawai‘i is one of only 11 states without state-funded preschool. Yet the research is clear that laying a strong foundation for our youth through high quality preschool programs will result in productive and capable citizens. A recent study in Hawai‘i found that every \$1 invested in early education returns \$4.20 in future social program savings. We have spent years studying the issues. We know what the right thing to do is. Now is the time to do it.

The newly established Executive Office of Early Learning in the Governor’s Office is recommending a course for early learning that is revolutionary. The proposed Early Learning Program has a developmentally appropriate focus on the whole child, bringing education, social services, and health together to increase child success. Unlike older children or adults, young children need comprehensive, multi-dimensional services that exist on a continuum—from birth to at least 8 years of age—so that they can accomplish the tasks of development and learning important in the early years and are fully prepared for further learning in elementary, middle and high schools, postsecondary education and beyond.

The TECC supports the overarching principles of the proposed program. Affordable access to high quality early learning programs must be available to all children, regardless of socio-economic status, race or geographic location. Families must be engaged in the learning of their keiki and participate in the financing of the program; the plan must embrace public and private providers.

Research has shown that young children achieve better learning outcomes when they have teachers and caregivers with specialized preparation and on-going professional development in early childhood education. The TECC is committed to supporting the preparation, professional development, credentialing and licensing of early childhood professionals in a state-supported preschool system. We firmly believe that standards for professionals should remain high and that every child deserves a high-quality early learning setting. TECC members have programs in place and the capacity to address emerging State needs as the Legislature and institutions commit to universal early childhood education. Moreover, we support the Program’s plan to provide joint professional development and assistance to early childhood providers and educators in this public-private partnership.

We all need to pull together and support early education for all of Hawai‘i’s keiki. We ask that this year’s legislature support early childhood education by funding preschool for all four-year-olds beginning in 2014.

\*\*\*\*\*

About the TECC

The Teacher Education Coordinating Committee (TECC) is a statewide advisory committee created in HRS 304A-1202. Its membership consists of representatives of

every institution of higher education that prepares teachers for the State's schools, the Hawai'i Department of Education, and the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board. In its monthly meeting, the TECC identifies, studies, acts, and makes recommendations on matters of education of common interest to the Hawai'i State Department of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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Testimony on HB 862 **Establishment of the School  
Readiness Program**

House Committee on Education

Friday, February 1, 2013, State Capitol, Room 329, 2:00 p.m.

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Ono and Committee members,

I am Howard S. Garval, President and Chief Executive Officer of Child & Family Service, Hawaii's oldest human services nonprofit organization whose mission is **strengthening families and fostering the healthy development of children.**

I am writing in support of HB 862 that ensures that 5,100 children who are a gap group that will not be eligible for kindergarten by 2014 (when children must turn 5 years old by July 31st to be eligible) will be able to attend a quality pre-school either run by the DOE or DHS licensed child care providers that meet minimum quality standards.

With the planned phase-out of Junior Kindergarten by 2014, it is important that we truly don't leave these children behind.

The best investment we can make in our community is on the front end; i.e. from birth to five so that children enter school safe, healthy and ready to learn. The Governor's appointment of an Early Childhood Coordinator was an important step in this direction and establishing an Executive Office on Early Learning was also an important next step that will ensure that services for young children are coordinated across state departments.

The science of brain development and the economic ROI of \$4.20 return for every \$1 invested in early childhood are well documented. Hawaii is one of only 11 states without a state funded pre-school. It is time that Hawaii becomes a leader in taking care of our keiki and ensuring that they get off to the right start being safe, healthy and ready to learn when they enter kindergarten. This bill along with other measures proposed in this legislative session will help Hawaii get there.

I urge your support of this legislation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Aloha,  
Howard S. Garval, President & CEO  
Child & Family Service

Our Mission: Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children





1806 South King Street, Suite 30 | Honolulu, HI 96826 | Ph: (808) 942-4708 | [haeyc@hawaiiieyc.org](mailto:haeyc@hawaiiieyc.org)

Rep. Roy Takumi, Chair  
Rep. Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

From: Katherine Murphy, Executive Director  
Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC)

Date: Friday, February 1, 2013

Subject: HB 862, Relating to School Readiness

Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC) supports the intent of HB 862. We understand that this is being introduced as a way to serve children before the constitutional amendment is proposed and hopefully passed, but the emphasis on high quality early childhood care and education is missing from this bill.

HAEYC is advocating for high quality programs/schools that are ready for all children (which includes well-prepared, adequately compensated teachers), addressing the whole child (which includes physical and mental health as well as the child's family), and public-private partnerships to provide a variety of programs that will meet the variety of needs. Some families have the resources to provide stimulating, healthy experiences for their young children. Others need varying levels of assistance to do this.

We acknowledge the vision and courage it takes for legislators to enact laws that will come to full fruition after they leave office. Investing in early childhood development and education will be a lasting legacy.

HAEYC would like to continue to be a positive contributor to ongoing policy conversations about Hawaii's children. Our volunteers and staff would be happy to provide you with more information to facilitate your decision-making. Please contact us at (808) 942-4708 or [haeyc@hawaiiieyc.org](mailto:haeyc@hawaiiieyc.org).

HAEYC represents nearly 1,000 members who are early childhood development and educational professionals across the state.

*HAEYC's mission is to promote, support, and expand quality and professionalism in early childhood programs and services for Hawai'i's children (0-8) and their families.*

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Katherine E. Murphy  
Executive Director  
HAEYC



February 1, 2013  
2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**RE: HB 862– Relating to School Readiness**

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and the members of the committee,

My name is Robert Witt and I am executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 students statewide.

**HAIS supports HB862** which establishes a statewide school readiness program, administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning consisting of providers of school readiness services to assist families in preparing their children for success in school. This program will serve four-year-old children with priority for those who are not eligible to attend public school kindergarten in the calendar year they turn five years of age.

Definitive research demonstrates that high quality preschool helps children with the skills and attitudes needed to be successful in school and life. Without proper foundation, a child's development can be 18-24 months behind, making kindergarten difficult. In three-quarters of DOE kindergarten classes in 2012-2013, the majority of students did not start school with the skills necessary for success.

Moreover, due to the change in age requirements, approximately 5,100 children will be left unserved without a program in place by 2014. In the 2014 school year, a child must be five years old before August 1, 2014 to enter kindergarten. This School Readiness Program will give priority to these children born later in the year.

HAIS has always been a strong proponent of early learning programs for all young learners in the state and we urge you to pass HB862.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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preparing children for success*

**2707 South King Street  
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**Phone: (808) 941-9414  
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ATHERTON – KAILUA  
KUAPA – HAWAII KAI  
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MOTHER RICE – MOILIILI  
MURIEL – KAKAOKO  
NA LEI – KALIHI  
WAI-KAHALA – KAHALA

February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Christina Cox, President  
KCAA Preschools of Hawaii

Subject: HB 862 Relating to School Readiness

KCAA Preschools of Hawaii was established in 1895 by the Woman's Board of Missions to serve the children of immigrant workers. We serve over 900 children per year in 7 NAEYC accredited preschools on Oahu. More than 50% of our students are low-income and over 80% go on to attend DOE elementary schools. We manage tuition subsidies from 7 different sources, each with its own set of requirements. We have a \$7 million annual operating budget with 130 employees. KCAA has just completed the construction of a \$3.2 million professional development center for early educators, Hawaii's first! It is located on our Mother Rice property in Moiliili. The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Center for Early Education and Development is funded exclusively by private businesses and Hawaii's dedicated philanthropic community. KCAA's Board was instrumental in this effort and is committed to working with the early childhood community to increase the number of qualified teachers, to improve their practice and to improve outcomes for Hawaii's keiki.

Please note that while I presently serve as the center-based program provider representative on the Early Learning Advisory Board and also serve as the Liaison for the Childcare Business Coalition of Hawaii which represents more than 60 centers throughout the State I am testifying today as the President of KCAA Preschools of Hawaii, a position that I have held for the past 12 years.

So much has changed during my 30 years working in the field of early education in Hawaii. It used to be that having teachers who genuinely enjoyed working with young children and who possessed a joy of learning, a natural curiosity about the world and were willing to share that with the children in their care, was enough. We now need to be sure that our teachers possess not only those important characteristics, but also the knowledge and skills required to help our children compete in the 21st Century.

We now know that 85% of a child's brain develops in the first few years of life and that there are critical experiences we should provide a young child with in order to optimize growth and development.



- Early experiences have a decisive impact on the actual architecture of the brain and on the nature and extent of adult capacities.
- By the time children from middle-income families are in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade they know about 12,000 words compared to low income children who know just 4,000 words, one third as many as their peers. This gap begins in the early years and research has repeatedly confirmed that early education makes all the difference in school success.

The time to act is now. We have a Governor who has made early childhood development and education a top priority, we have the support of both the philanthropic and business communities and we have seasoned legislators who possess a deep understanding of the issue and who are committed to working together with the broader community to create a better future for our youngest citizens.

I support the passage of HB 862 to pave the way for the establishment of a statewide school readiness program that will ultimately provide a variety of choices for families and which reflects the values of our host culture and of our rural communities.

We will need to pay special attention to the nuts and bolts of this program design if it is to achieve its goal. The program should have achievable program standards, and provide programs with adequate resources, both human and financial, to succeed.

When all is said and done we need to join together, to find some common ground and to see our children as an investment rather an expense.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**HAWAII BAPTIST EARLY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**  
**2042 VANCOUVER DRIVE HONOLULU, HI 96822**

January 31, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

My name is Rebecca McGuire and I formally represent the Hawaii Baptist Early Education Association. We are an association of the 19 Baptist preschools across four islands and we serve approximately 1,000 children. As the faith-based representative to the DHS Child care advisory board, I also informally represent many of the faith-based preschools around the state.

**The Hawaii Baptist Early Education Association is in support of House Bill 862 which establishes a School Readiness Program.**

We are in support of a bill that allows inclusiveness of the faith-based preschool community in working together with the Executive Office of Early Learning to establish services to the gap group resulting from the 2014 change in kindergarten entry age, beginning school year 2014-2015. Families who have been enrolled in the preschools have come to us expressing their concerns of an additional year of out-of-pocket expenses on their already burgeoning household budgets. Families who were considering preschool for their three year old child, have begun to delay anticipated enrollment due to an additional year of tuition expenses.

If we don't have a program in place for 2014, preschools that are already struggling under the current economic climate will be further taxed with declining enrollment and approximately 5,100 children will be left unserved due to the change in kindergarten entry age.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony of House Bill 862.

Rebecca McGuire, President  
Hawaii Baptist Early Education Association  
Director, Olivet Baptist Preschool



COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S COUNCIL OF HAWAII  
1177 Alakea Street • B-100 • Honolulu • HI • 96813  
TEL: (808) 586-5363 • TOLL FREE: 1-800-437-8641 • FAX: (808) 586-5366

January 29, 2013

Senator Takumi  
Chair of the Education Committee – State Capitol

RE: HB862 – RELATING TO EDUCATION  
Relating to School Readiness

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committee,

The CCCs **supports** HB862 that establishes a statewide school readiness program.

The CCCs have maintained that *all* children benefit from early intervention and this is especially true in the case with children who have special needs. Research has repeatedly shown that early intervention rates of children who are able to mainstream into Kindergarten are much higher of those who receive early intervention than those who did not receive services. The Academy of Pediatric recommends diagnostic tools that can be used to diagnose children early to receive early intervention.

The CCCs support that preparing all children for success in school through the establishment of a statewide readiness program which consist of providers assisting families. Through the repeal of Jr. Kindergarten there are thousands of children every year that will be without support. Some families will have the means to send them to preschool but some will not. Society has an obligation to invest in our children as they will be our next generation of law makers, teachers, chefs etc. Children are a protected class just as the elderly and special needs individuals are under the law. Socio economic status should not dictate which children are afforded the opportunity of school readiness.

The 17 Community Children's Councils (CCCs) are community-based bodies comprised of parents, professionals in both public and private agencies and other interested persons who are concerned with specialized services provided to Hawaii's students. Membership is diverse, voluntary and advisory in nature. The CCCs are in rural and urban communities organized around the Complexes in the Department of Education.

Thank you for considering our testimony,  
Tom Smith, Co-Chair

Jessica Wong-Sumida, Co-Chair

(Original signatures are on file with the CCCO)



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January 31, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Dean Okimoto  
President - 'Nalo Farms Inc.

RE: Testimony in **support** of HB 862: Relating to School Readiness.

I, Dean Okimoto, President of 'Nalo Farms, Inc. and a member of the Board of GBA am in support of HB 862, Relating to School Readiness. The Good Beginnings Alliance (GBA) is a policy and advocacy organization focused on ensuring that Hawaii's young children are healthy, safe, and ready for school. We strive to support our stakeholder community to this end, as well as provide relevant information to our families and fellow advocate community. The GBA has over a decade of experience in advocacy and service to our youngest and their families.

Last year the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed into law, legislation creating the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL)(Act 178; 2012). This measure also called for the termination of the existing Junior Kindergarten program starting in the 2014-2015 school year; a pre-Kindergarten program for late-born children administered by the Department of Education. The elimination of this program could affect over 5,200 four-year olds statewide. HB 862 provides a framework for the high quality school readiness program that will begin to take the place of Junior Kindergarten, and will eventually expand to provide statewide assistance to all families w/ four year-olds who choose to send their children to a school readiness program.

HB 862 seeks to establish a high quality school readiness in several ways that we see as critical, including:

- Ensuring parent choice in selecting a school readiness program that best serves the child.
- Investing in our existing, and future, early learning/school readiness providers.
- Prioritizing both underserved and at-risk children.
- Providing assistance for middle-income, 'gap group', families of four year olds.
- Tasking the EOEL with developing and adopting standards for participating programs that will ensure qualified instruction and data collection.

This measure begins to lay the framework for the EOEL to move forward with their mission to prepare our youngest keiki to succeed when they enter Kindergarten. We know firsthand that the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional growth that comes with high quality school readiness programing serves to prepare children for school.

By providing the EOEL authority to execute the School Readiness Program, we hope that they will take great effort to ensure that a range of providers are allowed to participate in the program, including center-based, school-based, family-child interaction learning programs, and family child care homes. By ensuring this breadth of service we can guarantee service to a greater number of families across our state. Including different types of providers can also address the need to increase the capacity that can be expected with the implementation of the new school readiness program.

Hawaii remains one of only eleven states that provides no significant state funding for early childhood education. This coupled with nearly 43% of our students not having received preschool upon entering Kindergarten means that our Department of Education (DOE) system must devote time and resources to bringing these children up to speed with their counterparts who have had some form of school readiness programing. By investing in our four year olds early we help save our DOE system, and teachers, time and money.

We also see the critical mass of public and private support focused on this program like never before. Members of the business, philanthropic, labor, and education community have demonstrated a commitment to working together to build an early learning system that will place our keiki at the same level (or above) as their colleagues on the mainland.

I, Dean Okimoto do support HB 862 as a first step toward bringing about the ultimate goal of a high quality school readiness program that will serve all of Hawaii's four year old children.

Thank you,

Dean J. Okimoto  
President  
'Nalo Farms, Inc.

841 Bishop St., Suite 301  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530  
Contact@HEECoalition.org

House Committee on Education  
Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

February 1, 2013

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for HB862, establishing a statewide school readiness program.

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

The Coalition supports the establishment of a statewide school readiness program and the financial appropriation to support the program. In particular, we support the priority of the late-born four year olds, who will not be able to attend public Kindergarten from the 2014-2015 year, that the program will focus on age-appropriate development for these keiki, and that it helping provide access to high-quality school readiness opportunities for low and moderate income families.

Last session, the Coalition testified that we preferred that Junior Kindergarten (JK) not be terminated without a guarantee in law that all "late-born" impacted students will have a state-funded early learning program as a replacement to meet their educational needs. Therefore, we look forward to a statewide school readiness program established in the law.

We also continue to recommend the development and implementation of an outreach program to preschools, families of late-born to explain the seamless transition to a statewide school readiness program and help parents prepare for the proposed ending of JK.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration. Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura  
HE'E Coalition Director

## HE'E Member List

Academy 21

After-School All-Stars Hawaii

Alliance for Place Based Learning

\*Castle Complex Community Council

Center for Civic Education

Coalition for Children with Special Needs

\*DOE Windward District

\*Faith Action for Community Equity

Fresh Leadership LLC

Girl Scouts Hawaii

\*Good Beginnings Alliance

Harold K.L. Castle Foundation

\*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and  
Economic Justice

Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars

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\*Pacific Resources for Education and  
Learning

\*Parents and Children Together

\*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i

Punahou School PUEO Program

Teach for America

The Learning Coalition

US PACOM

University of Hawai'i College of  
Education

YMCA of Honolulu

Voting Members (\*)



**S E A C**  
**Special Education Advisory Council**

**919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101**

**Honolulu, HI 96814**

**Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129**

**email: [spin@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:spin@doh.hawaii.gov)**

February 1, 2013

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Ms. Kau'i Rezendes  
Ms. Melissa Rosen  
Dr. Patricia Sheehey  
Mr. Tom Smith  
Mr. Mike Tamahaha  
Dr. Daniel Ulrich  
Ms. Cari White

Jan Tateishi, Staff  
Susan Rocco, Staff

Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
House Committee on Education  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 862 - RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Dear Chair Takumi and Committee members,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **strongly supports** HB 862 that establishes the School Readiness Program within the early learning system.

The School Readiness Program meets a critical need to provide quality early learning programs, especially in light of the thousands of young pre-schoolers who will be displaced when the Junior Kindergarten Program is discontinued after School Year 2013-14.

SEAC concurs with the focus on four year olds, and in particular, underserved and at-risk children who may lag behind their peers without quality early learning supports. Quality intervention at an early age can reduce the need for more intensive interventions, including special education and related services, in subsequent years.

SEAC also believes that increasing the availability of early learning programs that meet standards set by the Office of Early Learning will create more opportunities for young children with disabilities to have their school readiness needs met in inclusive settings.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Respectfully,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair



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February 1, 2013

2:00PM

House conference room 309.

To: Lunaho'omalū (Chair) Roy Takumi  
Hope Lunaho'omalū (Vice-Chair) Takashi Ohno,  
Kōmike Ho'ona'auao (House Committee on Education)

From: Lunaho'okele (Executive Director) 'Ekekela Aiona  
'Aha Pūnana Leo

Re: **KĀKO'O me nā LOLI HB 862 (SUPPORT with AMENDMENTS)**  
**RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS**

Aloha mai Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

My name is 'Ekekela Aiona, Executive Director, 'Aha Pūnana Leo.  
Mahalo for giving me the opportunity to testify in support with  
**amendments:**

**Pg 3, line 15**

(1) Prepare children for school in either of Hawai'i's two official  
languages, Hawaiian and English.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo is the only statewide provider of early  
education through the medium of Hawaiian and is connected to a  
P-20 Hawaiian Medium Education system. HB862 will provide  
assistance to nearly 15% of our families in preparing their keiki a  
year before entering papa mālaa'o (kindergarten) in Hawai'i's  
public Hawaiian Medium education schools.

Amendments to clarify the distinct school readiness needs of keiki  
in Hawaiian Medium Education are necessary to ensure the unique  
linguistic advantages of an education through the medium of  
Hawaiian are ensured.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support to  
HB 862.

Mahalo nui

*Oh. 'Ekekela Aiona*

E O I a K a ' Ō i e l o H a w a i ' i



HAROLD K.L. CASTLE  
FOUNDATION

January 31, 2013

*Closing the achievement  
and preparation gaps  
in public education*

*Restoring nearshore  
marine ecosystems*

*Strengthening Windward  
Oahu communities*

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Terrence R. George, Harold K.L. Castle Foundation

Re: **HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS**

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I strongly support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. HB 862 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility and enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds.

There is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, nearly 5200 late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

Preparing our children for the future means, in part, investing in their wellbeing from the start. This measure lays the groundwork for helping Hawaii's families provide their keiki with the valuable and high quality school readiness opportunities they need to succeed when they reach Kindergarten and beyond. If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in HB 862, and we need to do it NOW. Our children's future depends on it.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.

Sincerely,

Terrence R. George  
Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

1197 Aulua Road  
Kailua, Hawai'i  
96734

tel 808-263-7073

fax 808-261-6918

[www.castlefoundation.org](http://www.castlefoundation.org)

January 31, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Robert G. Peters, EdD  
Head of School, Hanahau`oli School

Re: HB862 Relating to School Readiness

Honorable Chairs and Committee Members:

This testimony is offered in support of HB862 which establishes a statewide school readiness program enabling us to offer services to the gap group affected by the change in Kindergarten entry level in the 2014 - 15 school year. Services would be delivered through DOE schools and DHS licensed child care programs that meet minimal quality standards.

We know that in three-quarters of DOE kindergarten classes in 2012 – 13, the majority of students did not enter with the skills necessary to promote school success. About 43% of DOE kindergarteners had not attended preschool. Research indicates that without the foundation a quality preschool experience offers, children can be behind in development as much as 18 – 24 months resulting in a challenging start to school.

We need to have a program in place for 2014; otherwise, 5100 children in our State will go unserved. Existing programs, in cooperation with the School Readiness Program, can help to serve children who fall into this gap. Services will be provided through a public-private partnership using a contractual system to increase the capacity for meeting the gap needs.

The School Readiness Program is an investment in our future which cannot be ignored. I strongly urge the committee to support this bill which lays a foundation for a long-term early learning program.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB1093.

Re: HB 862  
from: Ms. Vanessa Ott  
email: msvott@gmail.com

I agree that pre-school education is important. However, I am completely opposed to SB 1093 because it is just one more way to take education funds away from public schools and put it in the hands of independent contractors. HB 862 is a convoluted piece of legislation. It needs to be simplified, and it needs to keep the money and control of its educational system in the hands of public education – provided the DOE administration is held accountable for managing the system. To accomplish the desired end (a functional pre-school system that parents can afford), I propose the following:

PROPOSED TEXT

**A BILL FOR AN ACT INSTEAD OF HB 862**

RELATING TO PRE-SCHOOL & THE EDUCATION OF OUR KEIKI

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that children who have early-learning opportunities either at home or in pre-school have a greater chance of maximizing their school learning experiences.

SECTION 2. The legislature through Act 178, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2012, established firm birth date requirements for entry into Kindergarten. A child must be five years old by July **31** of the school year to enter Kindergarten. Note that registration into Kindergarten is voluntary.

SECTION 3. It is advantageous for our State's future to provide pre-school instruction that focuses on socialization techniques that will help ensure a child's future success in a Hawai'i Department of Education learning environment.

Therefore the legislature **finds it is in the best interests of our our State and our citizens to** establish voluntary pre-schools that operate within the purview of the Department of Education to be funded by parents, taxpayers, government subsidies for low-income families, and independent contributions.

The intent in a state, parent, and community-funded pre-school is to find balance in civic responsibility,

personal responsibility, freedom of choice, and necessary funding for public education services.

SECTION 4. The legislature thereby decrees that the Department of Education shall provide a feasibility study and action plan by December 31, 2013 that addresses the following:

1. families may enroll their children in the program on a voluntary basis;
2. a reasonable cost per student for inclusion shall be assessed for families of economic means;
3. families in need of economic assistance for inclusion will be provided with social services assistance to qualify for financial waivers;
4. funding for families in need of economic assistance shall be provided by the legislature.
5. a clearly defined pre-school curriculum which prepares children for their future learning environment shall include:
  - a. following instructions,
  - b. handling materials,
  - c. treating others with respect,
  - d. listening skills,
  - e. speaking skills,
  - f. conflict resolution,
  - g. how to hold a pencil properly.

SECTION 5. When the legislature receives the estimated costs for these services on 12/31/13, the legislature will establish a plan to determine how funding will be provided.

## Support for HB 862

As a longtime member of the early childhood community on Maui, I strongly support the establishment of the School Readiness Program. This program is a necessary first step toward the creation of a more extensive program in the future. By providing school readiness activities for those late-born four year old children who will no longer be served by the DOE, the state of Hawaii recognizes and supports important early childhood activities for these children.

February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Dee Jay Mailer, grandmother and keiki 'o ka 'āina,

Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. We have known for years the importance of attending to cognitive and social development in the early years (0-4). We know that without that, Kindergarten becomes a challenge for our children and sets in place a path of remediation and frustration to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, another pivotal time for our children. By 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, without a good early start, reading becomes the next barrier and self-doubt continues. Fast forward, middle school disengagement and dropping out (physically or emotionally) in high school. There are those that would say that it is the K-12 system that needs to take care of that ... ask the K-12 teachers across the State (private and public) how difficult that becomes as the disparity grows between children.

Why do we choose remediation vs. a successful start? Why do we choose incarceration vs. productive and engaged citizens in work and thus the livelihood of our State?

HB 862 allows us, as responsible adults in our island community, to nip all of this in the bud. HB 862 enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds. High quality is what is expected and the private and public sector early learning providers are up to it!

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in HB 862.

Thank you for your leadership in education for our State and the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.

January 31, 2013

Hearing on February 1, 2013 at 2:00 P.M.  
House Education Committee  
Conference Room 309

In support of HB 862

To Whom It May Concern:

We ask for your support of HB 862 because this bill will enable our young children access to early learning opportunities the year prior to entering public school kindergarten.

We are staff members of Linapuni Elementary School. Linapuni School serves Pre-kindergarten, Kindergarten, and Grade 1 students. Most of our children and families live in the Towers at Kuhio Park. Currently, 99% of all children qualify for the federal free or reduced meal program and 59% of Kindergarten and Grade 1 students are identified as having limited English proficiency

HB 862 offers children in our school's geographic area an opportunity to attend a quality early learning program, taught by highly qualified teachers utilizing developmentally appropriate practices in their classroom instruction. The School Readiness program also promotes effective readiness activities to support the educational outcomes of our children on their path towards success in college, career, and citizenship, a priority in the current Board of Education/Department of Education Strategic Plan.

Thank you for allowing us to testify in support of HB 862.

Respectfully,  
Linapuni Elementary School Staff

Junko Ayabe	Shari Kurashige
Maria Bautista	Cyra Okamoto
Karrie Clark	Virginia Park
Gavin Doi	Melanie Sagawa
Ann Ford	JoAnn Sugiyama
Mark Hirata	Jodi Tom
Tiffany Hirota	Colleen Uejo
Kathryn Inouye	Michele Uwaine
Karen Kimura	Sandra Villamil
Suzanne Kobatake	Henrietta Yamaguchi

January 31, 2013

Hearing on February 1, 2013 at 2:00 P.M.  
House Education Committee  
Conference Room 309

In support of HB 862

To Whom It May Concern:

I am humbly ask for your support of HB 862 because this bill will enable all children access to early learning opportunities the year prior to entering public school kindergarten.

I am principal of Linapuni Elementary School, serving Pre-kindergarten, Kindergarten, and Grade 1 students. Most of our children and families live in the Towers at Kuhio Park, formerly known as Kuhio Park Terrace or Kuhio Homes, public housing projects in Kalihi. Currently, 99% of all children qualify for the federal free or reduced meal program and 59% of Kindergarten and Grade 1 students are identified as having limited English proficiency.

HB 862 offers children in our school's geographic area an opportunity to attend a quality early learning program, taught by highly qualified teachers utilizing developmentally appropriate practices in their classroom instruction. The School Readiness program also promotes effective readiness activities to support the educational outcomes of our children on their path towards success in college, career, and citizenship, a priority in the current Board of Education/Department of Education Strategic Plan.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 862.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Sunahara  
Principal  
Linapuni Elementary School

Dear Representative,

I am writing to you about the importance of early childhood programs in our community. As a mother and social worker in our community, I ask that you support the bill for the early childhood education to increase funding for high quality childcare programs in our community.

Research tells us that children who participate in high quality early childhood programs have better coping skills, healthier relationships, higher self-esteem, and perform better in school. Children who are enrolled quality early child care programs are more likely to graduate from high school, less likely to become involved in crime, and more likely to become positive, productive citizens as adults.

The birth-to-five years are the most important of a child's development. Economists, business leaders, and researchers agree that early childhood education services are among the smartest public investments we can make.

Please vote in support of support the bill making early childhood education programs s accessible to all children regardless of economic status so that all the children in our community will have the tools they need to become healthier, happier, stronger keiki.

Thank you for your hard work.

Sara Valdez  
1130 Hoomau Place  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Svaldez808@hotmail.com

February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Catherine M. Medeiros

Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

As a mother, grandmother and a Direct Support worker, I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. HB 862 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility and enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds.

There is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, nearly 5200 late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

Preparing our children for the future means, in part, investing in their wellbeing from the start. This measure lays the groundwork for helping Hawaii's families provide their keiki with the valuable and high quality school readiness opportunities they need to succeed when they reach Kindergarten and beyond.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in HB 862.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.

Sincerely,

*Momi Medeiros*

C. Momi Medeiros  
1502 Koene Place  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
Phone: 385-0439  
Email: anakemomi@yahoo.com

January 31, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Cherilyn Shiinoki

RE: HB862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS  
HB864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Dear Honorable Chairs and Committee Members,

Please support HB862 and HB864, which establishes a statewide school readiness program through the Executive Office of Early Learning and a statewide high-quality early childhood education program. HB862 will set up the pathway for our keiki that are no longer eligible to be educated through the Department of Education as a result of Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, to be ready for kindergarten when they are eligible. As HB862 states, "many of the children who do not have experiences in pre-kindergarten programs could be eighteen to twenty-four months behind in development than their peers who do." This is especially true in a young child's social emotional development which is absolutely necessary for primary school teachers to effectively teach their students.

If Act 178 had been passed 1 year before it did, my son would not have been able to enter kindergarten because of his late year birthday. However, my husband and I decided to keep him in an accredited high-quality program, even though he was eligible to enter kindergarten in 2011 because we did not feel that he was emotionally ready for the structured kindergarten classroom environment. Now, in his kindergarten year, he still has difficulty managing his desire to share his ideas and often disrupts the class. I could not imagine how difficult it would have been for him to feel he could be successful in school if he did not have the extra year of preschool opportunities to practice his social-emotional skills with other children in an understanding, nurturing environment. Fortunately, our family was in the financial position to provide him a preschool education and make a choice. Sadly, there are so many families where this is not the case. Act 178 now puts many low income families in the position of "no choice." Without HB862 & HB864, these families may not be able to afford quality pre-K experiences and may not be able to work as they will need to stay at home with their children. This only increases their economic demands and stress in the home.

Research shows that the more a family is in partnership with their children's teachers and schools, the more likely their children are to succeed. Families are more involved when their children are young. Preschool is the optimal opportunity for families to become comfortable being involved in their children's educational experience so that when problems arise later in their academic career; families are empowered to partner with their schools. Unfortunately, it is the same families who need these partnerships the most that are not able to afford a pre-K experience.

HB862 and HB864 work together to ensure a bright start for the children of Hawaii. Recent brain research stress the importance of providing meaningful, repetitive, and varied experiences for the optimal development of executive function skills, such as inhibitory control and mental flexibility, which allows a person to be successful in life and a contributor to society. These experiences and opportunities for practice need to occur before the age of 5 with professionals who can facilitate this development. I believe in HB862 & HB864 and hope that you will support them for all of our children.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of these important bills.

February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Jim Eberle

Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. HB 862 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility and enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds.

This is our chance to invest in the future of our State. All the data proves access to early learning improves graduation rates, increases economic status as adults, and *decreases* grade repetition, special education referrals, *welfare dependency and criminal activity*.

I can't imagine any other investment that can produce such a high return as a statewide school readiness program. It's our future at stake. Imagine our state with a tremendous drop in the need for social programs, and the savings we accumulate that could be used to better improve our standard of living for all our citizens.

I work directly with families seeking to enroll their child(ren) in preschool programs. The number of parents that struggle with comprehension of program requirements is staggering. Our program is one of the simplest programs to apply for. The same is true to continue compliance to stay in the program. The volume of our drop off rate is disturbing. Let's change the course for our children and ensure they have better opportunities in their future.

Preparing our children for the future means, in part, investing in their wellbeing from the start. This measure lays the groundwork for helping Hawaii's families provide their keiki with the valuable and high quality school readiness opportunities they need to succeed when they reach Kindergarten and beyond.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in HB 862.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.



## ohno2-Jun

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 31, 2013 9:01 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** Gfarstrup@msn.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB862 on Feb 1, 2013 14:00PM\*

### **HB862**

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDN on Feb 1, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Greg & Pat Farstrup	Individual	Support	No

### Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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## ohno2-Jun

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 31, 2013 4:31 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** kahikilani58@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB862 on Feb 1, 2013 14:00PM\*

### **HB862**

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDN on Feb 1, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dorothy Mahoney	Individual	Support	No

### Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Leigh Johnson

Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. HB 862 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility and enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds.

There is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, nearly 5200 late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

Preparing our children for the future means, in part, investing in their wellbeing from the start. This measure lays the groundwork for helping Hawaii's families provide their keiki with the valuable and high quality school readiness opportunities they need to succeed when they reach Kindergarten and beyond.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in HB 862.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.

February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Lily Rose Johnson

Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. HB 862 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility and enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds.

There is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, nearly 5200 late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

Preparing our children for the future means, in part, investing in their wellbeing from the start. This measure lays the groundwork for helping Hawaii's families provide their keiki with the valuable and high quality school readiness opportunities they need to succeed when they reach Kindergarten and beyond.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in HB 862.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.

February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Osiris Johnson

Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. HB 862 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility and enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds.

There is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, nearly 5200 late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

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If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in HB 862.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Liz Chun  
Early Education Policy Consultant

Date: Friday, February 1, 2013, 2:00 pm  
Conference Room 309

Subject: **HB 862 : Relating to School Readiness**

I submit this testimony **in strong support of HB 862, Relating to School Readiness**, which provides for a state-funded voluntary school readiness program to be administered by the executive office on early learning. Hawaii must recognize and be deeply concerned about the lack of school readiness as our children enter kindergarten. Research demonstrates that quality early childhood education and care (ECEC) programs do make a difference; starting school with the crucial readiness skills positively affects future learning and life outcomes.

### **1 - Good Policy: Makes Economic Sense for Hawaii**

In order to nurture children who will become successful contributing citizens, Hawaii must embrace the long-term strategy of supporting school readiness. National economists such as Art Rolnik from the Federal Reserve Board as well as local experts such as Paul Brewbaker – repeatedly emphasize – **the best long-term investment Hawaii can make is quality early childhood development and learning.**

The 2009 Economic Benefit study commissioned by the Good Beginnings Alliance – states clearly that for every dollar invested there will be a \$4.20 yield in state, federal, and social benefits.

No more studies are needed. No more proof is required. **Now** is the time to ACT.

### **2 - ECEC Programs Will Increase Quality Experiences for Children**

When Hawaii invests in school readiness, the programs who receive funding will be required to deliver services which nurture the cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and physical development of the child. The oversight of this investment should provide on-going support and reflective review to enhance the delivery of such high quality services.

**The executive office of early learning must be given the resources to provide this training, oversight, and program accountability.**

### 3 - Department of Education Will Benefit

The executive office of early learning is the early childhood partner with the Department of Education (DOE) and University of Hawaii system for Hawaii's P-20 Initiative. P-20 fosters systemic linkages to enhance the learning continuum. Currently, Hawaii has a strong P-3 pilot. Building on this work, the positive linkages among parents, school readiness programs, and K-3 programs can be systemically enhanced through this broader school readiness program.

In addition, DOE will benefit as research has shown that **when more low-income children attend a school readiness program prior to kindergarten entry, the regular school system experiences fewer costly special education placements, less tardiness, and lower absenteeism.**

### 4 - Families are Engaged.

**"Parents are trained" when they become engaged in their child's school readiness program.** One of the very best ways to reach parents is when their young child is enrolled in a program. Engagement can range from volunteering in classroom - to after school/work teacher/parent dialogue - to written interchanges between the teacher and the parent. Keiki require drop-off and pick-up; they require adult involvement to facilitate their every day attendance. To a parent with few resources and many home challenges – **the child's school readiness program may indeed be the only avenue through which they will learn how to assist their child's learning.**

### 5 - Children Win!

Right now Hawaii has a problem: In the 2014-2015 school year, over 5000 children who would have previously enrolled in kindergarten will be unable to do so. These children with birth dates from August 1-December 31 will be required to wait an entire year before than can begin their educational journey within the public school system. Low and moderate-income families will be most affected by this change as they lack resources for an alternative.

The Solution: **A voluntary school readiness program which serves the children affected by the change in kindergarten eligibility. This program prepares a child for school entry by offering a defined program addressing the physical, cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional development of the child.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Contact Information: [lizchun@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:lizchun@hawaii.rr.com).

February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Mai Wong

Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. HB 862 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility and enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds.

Children who begin with a disadvantage due to family situation will be further disadvantaged. This is particularly true of children who do not attend preschool because of parent's inability to pay or ineligible due to income or other program requirements.

There is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, nearly 5200 late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

Preparing our children for the future means, in part, investing in their wellbeing from the start. This measure lays the groundwork for helping Hawaii's families provide their keiki with the valuable and high quality school readiness opportunities they need to succeed when they reach Kindergarten and beyond.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in HB 862.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.

February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Mark Ebert

Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. HB 862 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility and enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.

Mark Ebert

February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Rachel Donahue

Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. HB 862 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility and enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds.

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If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in HB 862.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.

Rachel Donahue, MSW, LSW  
Case Manager  
racheld.msw@gmail.com

February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Rina Andrade

Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. HB 862 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility and enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds.

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February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From:

Re: Troy Abraham

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. HB 862 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility and enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds.

There is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, nearly 5200 late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

Preparing our children for the future means, in part, investing in their wellbeing from the start. This measure lays the groundwork for helping Hawaii's families provide their keiki with the valuable and high quality school readiness opportunities they need to succeed when they reach Kindergarten and beyond.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in HB 862.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.

Sincerely,  
Troy Abraham

February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Cinzia Olter

Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. HB 862 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility and enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds.

There is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, nearly 5200 late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

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If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in HB 862.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.

February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Michelle L. Johnson  
P.O. Box 122  
Waianae, HI 96792

Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. HB 862 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility and enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds.

There is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, nearly 5200 late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

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If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in HB 862.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.

February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Joy Portela, Parent

Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. HB 862 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility and enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds.

There is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, nearly 5200 late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

Preparing our children for the future means, in part, investing in their wellbeing from the start. This measure lays the groundwork for helping Hawaii's families provide their keiki with the valuable and high quality school readiness opportunities they need to succeed when they reach Kindergarten and beyond.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in HB 862.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.

January 31, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair

Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair

House Committee on Education

From: Jane Dickson

Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. HB 862 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility and enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds.

I have been lucky enough to spend my entire working life in early childhood education – teaching in Head Start programs, private preschools, first and second grade classrooms, and the undergraduate elementary and early childhood program at UH Manoa. Therefore, I know through personal experience that good preschool programs help children in so many ways. Children's social growth, their intellectual curiosity, their physical development, and their emotional health are all fostered in a quality preschool. Children learn to work with others, listen to a story, ask questions, explore the world around them, and value themselves as learners.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in HB 862. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.

ohno2-Jun

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 31, 2013 1:07 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** mpu808@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB862 on Feb 1, 2013 14:00PM

**HB862**

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDN on Feb 1, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Corinne Uehara	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the bills to create a state-funded system that supports families who need financial help in sending their children to preschool. I think this is necessary for the future success of our keiki and ultimately, our state. Thank you.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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March 31, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Arthur Bein

Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. I feel that Early Intervention is important to children's success due to having strong expectations for students in schools. If we wait till kindergarten with student's readiness we have lost time to have them learn the skills needed to achieve success in schools. As a preschool special education teacher, I see the need for having good preschool programs for student to get the skills to succeed in schools.

If we do not have these programs in place for our children they will not be able to achieve higher learning and be ready for further education of college. I see a need for these programs to be in place so that we can support are children and put education first on the list for students needs and not money.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we needs to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in HB 862.

February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Rheta Kuwahara-Fujita

Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I am a 20-year veteran early childhood teacher at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Children's Center. I fully support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families to provide their young children an opportunity to quality early childhood programs. HB 862 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility and enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds.

There is a clear link between children who attend high quality early childhood programs or pre-kindergarten program and their social and cognitive development. Having a school readiness program in place, will provide our young children the experiences to nurture their development across many domains. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, nearly 5200 late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

Preparing our children for the future means, in part, investing in their wellbeing from the start. This measure lays the groundwork for helping Hawaii's families provide their keiki with the valuable and high quality school readiness opportunities they need to succeed when they reach Kindergarten and beyond.

As a state, we want to support and nurture the best of what we can offer to our children. As a society, as an 'ohana, we make our children the center and priority in our day to day lives in the decisions we make at home and at work. I know this bill will express our community's dedication to our children. Passing this bill will provide the funding to attract and retain qualified staff and engage private and public high-quality programs to work together with the common goal of helping Hawai'i's children reach their fullest potential now.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in HB 862.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.

Sincerely Yours,  
Rheta Kuwahara-Fujita



February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Robyn S. B. Chun

Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

As a constituent in your district, I appreciate your longstanding policy leadership when it comes to addressing the needs of Hawai'i's youngest keiki as well as your tireless work in the community supporting many of the early childhood organizations and practitioners across a diverse spectrum that are care passionately about young children (birth through 8 years) and their families.

I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. With the sunset of Junior Kindergarten in Fall 2014, many families who most need support in accessing early learning experiences for their late born 4-year-olds will be "left behind". Unlike families that have the means to afford and choose from a variety of options, children from our most vulnerable families with the least financial resources will be unable to access supportive early education experiences for an additional year, leaving children even farther behind as they enter kindergarten.

My work as a teacher in preschools, DOE K-1 classrooms, family child care provider and teacher educator, and my personal experience as a mother of twins, has impressed upon me the importance of providing each child with a meaningful and culturally relevant early experience that will address each child's physical, cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional development. I have also experienced what the "haves" and "have nots" looks like when children and family members walk through a kindergarten door without these supports. I have seen children and families struggle from the start to experience success educationally. Unfortunately, research shows that for many the consequences are lifelong.

HB 862 enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds. I have full faith that our public servants in the Executive Office on Early Learning will lead the effort to and implement a plan that will be inclusive and will represent the best efforts of families, children, and many, many concerned organizations within our early childhood professional 'Ohana. Their strategic plan and goals embody a vision of an early learning system where:

- each child enters kindergarten with a strong foundation to succeed personally and educationally,
- practitioners and organizations working with children and families in our many diverse ECE settings have the support and education they need to foster the growth and development of each child; and,
- families and communities are supported and empowered as partners in assuring their keiki succeed educationally and in life.

Preparing our children for the future means, in part, investing in their wellbeing from the start. This measure lays the groundwork for helping Hawaii's families provide their keiki with the valuable and high quality school readiness opportunities they need to succeed when they reach Kindergarten and beyond.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in HB 862.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.

Sincerely yours,

Robyn S. B. Chun  
Early Childhood Educator

## Testimony – HB 862

We strongly endorse an early childhood program empowering children to be active and participating citizens, contributing to the building of a sustainable Hawaii. A commitment to this kind of program compels schools to be ready to teach all children, regardless of abilities, experiences, or readiness skills. We want children to become competent and capable learners and thinkers, healthy in mind, body, and spirit, confident in who they are and how they contribute to a democratic and equitable society – not just children ready for the next grade. Therefore, we oppose HB 862.

Readiness narrows children's opportunities to learn joyfully in the context of their families, communities and schools. Readiness does not work – it cannot be measured, there are no scores or tests or behaviors that can determine who is ready and who is not (Graue, 1993, 1998, 2000; Shepard, 1990). Readiness diminishes children's lives to numbers defined through readiness assessments.

In naming readiness directly with school success, a narrow view of readiness exists only in the context of school. This indicates a socially constructed perspective of readiness, determined by people in power within the communities of Hawaii (not necessarily representative of all the communities) (Graue, 1992). Further, the state definition reflects more of adult' visions of readiness rather than children's contributions of defining readiness (Graue, 1993). This is evident in how children are described within the definition – children's developmental characteristics – children are only given voice through adult conceptions of development.

Readiness as defined through a certain list of skills often places a checklist central to determining a student's readiness. Research states any type of readiness assessment is not a strong measure of students' future success, rather the actual school experiences impact the level of a student's success (Dockett & Perry, 2009). This understanding of readiness indicates a lack of the suggested positive interaction as the state readiness definition states. With this perspective, there is an assumption students need to be ready for school. In what ways are schools, teachers, and principals ready for students?

“Being ready” is common vocabulary (Dockett & Perry, 2009) used to describe students being prepared for the next grade level or to learn a new skill. This creates an imagined state of being for students. The limitation of this perspective is when students do not fit into this imagined state; the students are left out of this normalized perception of being ready. While some view students as capable, most students are only viewed in terms of readiness.

Submitted by:

Jeanne Marie Iorio, EdD

(EdM, Harvard University; EdD, Teachers College, Columbia University)

Susan Matoba Adler, PhD

(PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison)

January 31, 2013

February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Keith Vieira, SVP  
Director of Operations  
Starwood Hotels & Resorts

RE: Testimony in **support** of HB 862: Relating to School Readiness.

I am in support of HB 862, Relating to School Readiness. The Good Beginnings Alliance (GBA) is a policy and advocacy organization focused on ensuring that Hawaii's young children are healthy, safe, and ready for school. The GBA has over a decade of experience in advocacy and service to our youngest and their families.

Last year the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed into law, legislation creating the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL)(Act 178; 2012). This measure also called for the termination of the existing Junior Kindergarten program starting in the 2014-2015 school year; a pre-Kindergarten program for late-born children administered by the Department of Education. The elimination of this program could affect over 5,200 four-year olds statewide. HB 862 provides a framework for the high quality school readiness program that will begin to take the place of Junior Kindergarten, and will eventually expand to provide statewide assistance to all families w/ four year-olds who choose to send their children to a school readiness program.

Hawaii remains one of only eleven states that provides no significant state funding for early childhood education. This measure begins to lay the framework for the EOEL to move forward with their mission to prepare our youngest keiki to succeed when they enter Kindergarten. By providing the EOEL authority to execute the School Readiness Program, we hope that they will take great effort to ensure that a range of providers are allowed to participate in the program, including center-based, school-based, family-child interaction learning programs, and family child care homes.

Again, I am in support of HB 862 as a first step toward bringing about the ultimate goal of a high quality school readiness program that will serve all of Hawaii's four year old children.

Mahalo.

February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Michaela Primacio

Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. HB 862 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility and enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds.

There is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, nearly 5200 late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

Preparing our children for the future means, in part, investing in their wellbeing from the start. This measure lays the groundwork for helping Hawaii's families provide their keiki with the valuable and high quality school readiness opportunities they need to succeed when they reach Kindergarten and beyond.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in HB 862.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 31, 2013 3:14 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** tinabartys@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB862 on Feb 1, 2013 14:00PM

**HB862**

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDN on Feb 1, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tina Ahching	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am sorry I accidentally marked oppose for this bill when I truly support it. Thank you Tina Ahching. February 1, 2013 To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair House Committee on Education From: Tina Ahching Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS Honorable Chairs & Committee Members: I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. HB 862 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility and enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds. There is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, nearly 5200 late-born children (those born August 1st to December 31st) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program. Preparing our children for the future means, in part, investing in their wellbeing from the start. This measure lays the groundwork for helping Hawaii's families provide their keiki with the valuable and high quality school readiness opportunities they need to succeed when they reach Kindergarten and beyond. If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in HB 862. From age 0-5 is the most critical brain development phase of our Keiki. Please pass this bill on behalf of our Keiki. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Cherie Yamashiroya (Pre-K Teacher at KCAA Preschools of Hawaii Na Lei)

Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. HB 862 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility and enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds.

There is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, nearly 5200 late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

Preparing our children for the future means, in part, investing in their wellbeing from the start. This measure lays the groundwork for helping Hawaii's families provide their keiki with the valuable and high quality school readiness opportunities they need to succeed when they reach Kindergarten and beyond.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in HB 862.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.

February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Christy Ryan

Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. HB 862 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility and enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds.

There is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, nearly 5200 late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

Preparing our children for the future means, in part, investing in their wellbeing from the start. This measure lays the groundwork for helping Hawaii's families provide their keiki with the valuable and high quality school readiness opportunities they need to succeed when they reach Kindergarten and beyond.

If we want to ensure the success of our children, like my daughter, in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in HB 862.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.

February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Pauline Lilinoe (Keliipio) Young

Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. HB 862 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility and enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds.

There is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, nearly 5200 late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

Preparing our children for the future means, in part, investing in their wellbeing from the start. This measure lays the groundwork for helping Hawaii's families provide their keiki with the valuable and high quality school readiness opportunities they need to succeed when they reach Kindergarten and beyond.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in HB 862.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.

ohno2-Jun

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 31, 2013 6:10 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** romaj@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB862 on Feb 1, 2013 14:00PM\*

**HB862**

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDN on Feb 1, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roma Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From: Tracy Ruggiero, M.Ed., BCBA

Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. HB 862 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility and enables the Executive Office on Early Learning to move forward on a high-quality school readiness program for all Hawaii four-year-olds.

There is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, nearly 5200 late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

Preparing our children for the future means, in part, investing in their wellbeing from the start. This measure lays the groundwork for helping Hawaii's families provide their keiki with the valuable and high quality school readiness opportunities they need to succeed when they reach Kindergarten and beyond.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in HB 862.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.

Sincerely,  
Tracy Ruggiero, M.Ed., BCBA

February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education

From:

Re: HB 862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB 862, which establishes a statewide program geared towards assisting families in helping their children meet important developmental milestones and preparing them for future school success. We have known for decades through multiple research studies that high quality preschool experience makes a difference in learning and social outcomes for children. Now it is time for Hawai'i to make the commitment and investment in our youngest citizens through the program proposed in this bill.

I have been preparing preschool teachers for more than two decades at Honolulu Community College. Every year until this one I have had to tell these dedicated early educators that there is not much out there to support them in the critical work they have chosen to do. This year is different. HB 262 and the program it will establish is the first step in improving the opportunities for all young children in Hawai'i to succeed. The need is more critical than ever before. If we do not implement this statewide program by 2014, nearly 5200 late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

We must make this investment now. To miss this opportunity would mean denying families the support they need to give their children the chance to succeed now and in the future, in school and in life. Just as importantly, missing this opportunity could have serious consequences for the future of our state. High quality preschool has been shown to have multiple positive long-term effects. HB 862 is the right thing to do, for children, for families, and for all citizens of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 862.